No. 649 Twopence November, 1957

THE UNITARIAN

A MAGAZINE FOR FREE CHRISTIANS

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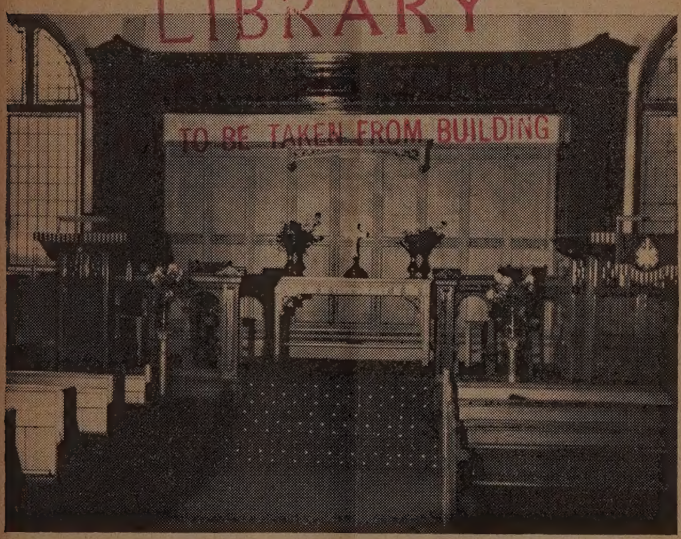

LEIGH DIAMOND JUBILEE

A Renovated Church

By E. W. Deakin

1957 is the Diamond Jubilee Year for Twist Lane Unitarian Church and a very busy and successful year it is proving to be. Early in 1956 the North and East Lancashire Mission sent their visiting adviser to examine the buildings and make suggestions. In the latter years the buildings had shown signs of much needed repairs. The minister and the church committee then met to consider this report and they decided to call in another adviser to make a fuller examination of the whole of the buildings and report, a member of the congregation along with a well-known Unitarian architect, Mr. Ernest Frankland. It was then found that unless a big scheme of renovation was undertaken at once there was a risk that the work would become too big for the congregation to undertake. The members of the congregation decided to seek the advice of the Mission and the General Assembly in this matter. Then the decision was taken to do a "lasting job" and the work began. For seven months the services were held in the schoolroom. The mem-

bers of the congregation rallied round the minister and committee and the result was a big surprise to even the members of the congregation themselves. The whole of the church was redesigned and repairs carried out from the foundation to the roof. The alterations and renovations have transformed the church into what the local press calls one of the most beautiful churches in the town. Where there were two very narrow aisles leading to the centre rostrum, now there is one wide aisle leading to a very lovely chancel which is carpeted with a rich cherry red carpet into which has been woven silver crosses. The carpet was woven in Kidderminster and this blends with the new furniture of light oak and the rich cream and gold of the church walls. The furniture consists of a new Communion Table and four chairs all in light oak. The table is surmounted with a five foot canopy in the same oak which carries a hidden light illuminating a brass cross 18 inches high. There is now a reading desk and pulpit fashioned from the beautiful figured pine of the old rostrum. New windows of cathedral glass have replaced the old windows. The whole of the lighting system has been replaced by a very modern system. Two big chandeliers carrying six lights with the six side lights show up in all its beauty a lovely roof with its shining timbers and painted a light blue. On the right of the chancel is a new feature, a beautifully designed Children's Corner with its own table, reading desk and baptismal font. On the walls above the table is a painting of Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper," also two beautiful pictures by Margaret Tarrant, all framed in the same light oak. The organ has been restored by members of the Men's Fellowship who also gave the furnishings for the chancel. The furniture for the chancel was presented by the chairman of the congregation, Mr. G. Vincent Grundy and others. No memorial plaques have been placed in the church as memorials to past members and relatives, but there are many memorials, and all are in the shape of useful furniture for the purposes of worship. The cost of the whole scheme is in the region of £2,000 and considering that the congregation is a working class one and had not a single penny in any repairs fund, something akin to a miracle has been performed. The Mission has given some help financially, but the great encouragement came from the General Assembly who made a grant and gave us a loan of £250. The people are working with a will and we are delighted with the help we are receiving, and we hope that the remainder of our debt will not be with us for long.

UNITARIANS IN THE NEWS

The Rev. A. B. Downing, M.A., secretary of the Unitarian College, Manchester, and minister at Dean Row and Styal, has received the London B.D. degree. The Rev. C. Gordon Bolam, B.A., B.D., minister of High Pavement Chapel, Nottingham, has received the M.A. degree.

The Rev. A. L. Agnew, B.A., B.D., of Belfast, has been appointed to the Visitors' Board of H.M. Prison.

The Rev. D. E. J. Davies, B. D., having completed his training at Caermarthen, is settling at Trebanos. The Rev. N. J. Teape, from Rotherham, has begun his ministry at Ipswich. The Rev. John Storer, of Hale, is going to the Church of the Divine Unity, Newcastle-on-Tyne in the new year. Mr. William McMillan, of the Unitarian College, has begun a student ministry at Platt Chapel, Manchester.

The Rev. Charles Simpson, B.A., is chaplain to the Mayor of Stourbridge this year.

UNITARIAN STALWARTS

No. 39. Stanley Lees, of Stockton-on-Tees

Our denomination has profited greatly from newcomers to our churches, who have served them unstintingly, with devotion and loyalty. Stan Lees is a fine example of such a newcomer. He still appreciates the training he received in a Methodist Sunday School at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Stan settled early on Tees Side, and soon joined the Stockton Unitarian Church in 1930, during the Rev. John Kielty's ministry, becoming a teacher in the Sunday School in 1932 and Sunday School secretary in 1933, when he was also elected a member of the church committee. The church entrusted him with the office of treasurer in 1951, and no church could ever find a better treasurer, full of goodwill and creative efficiency, and not that deadening "efficiency" which minimises every success and exaggerates every loss.

And what an auctioneer at a Jumble Sale, full of the tricks of the trade and an intriguing humour! The weekly Whist Drive could not go on without him. Whoever is missing, Stan is always there. It is a wonder how he finds time for everything.

Our churches in the north-east have enjoyed his services in the pulpit, and the services he takes are always well thought out and conducted with grace. As long as we can get such men to take our pulpits, we need not be anxious about the standard of Unitarian preaching. Stan is concerned as much about the devotional life of the church as he is for its general social activities, maintaining a happy balance between them. The Stockton Sunday School especially has been fortunate in having his constant attention for many years.

Happy is the minister who has such a loyal supporter in his church, always ready with his gracious help to promote the success of every church activity, and, above all, always present at the services with his appreciative goodwill.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Have you ordered your cards for your Sale of Work? Six assorted cards in packet, selling at 1/-, for 8d. to stall organisers. Send stamps for sample.

Several designs of card are available at 1s. 9d. per dozen, or 6s. 6d. for fifty

The "Essex Hall" Christmas Card is now selling at 1/6 per dozen. William Blake's "Nativity," a superior card at 1/-, or 9s. per dozen. Samples from the Editor, Dunham Road Parsonage, Altrincham, Ches.

THE INQUIRER

The weekly organ of the Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Every Saturday, Price 3d.

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By subscription, £1 1s. 8d. per annum from "The Inquirer" Office, 14, Gordon Square, W.C.1.

GOOD AND BAD NEWS

By Joyce Hazlehurst

The girls in my Sunday School class have been keeping newspaper cuttings of "Good News" and "Bad News." They have pasted them into exercise books; "Good News" books have red covers, "Bad News" dirty grey. On the outside of each book is an appropriate picture, e.g., a blood donor at a hospital ("Good News"), Vesuvius erupting ("Bad News").

Some of the cuttings caused no difficulty, for the good or evil in the stories leapt to the eye in the headlines: "Mercy helicopter beats mist," "Home-help robbed blind woman." But often we puzzled over which book to choose, for the news was a mixture of good and bad: "Man dies for dog," "Penknife operation 80 feet up." Our rule, however, was to choose the sacrifice and courage which a bad situation evoked, rather than the bad situation itself. In other words, we found more good than bad in the daily news.

The other day while selling flags in the street, I had an interesting conversation with an old man. He took a melancholy view of the world and his fellow-men; only a few good people like himself, all the rest bad. "Look at this great crisis in London, for instance!" I was vaguely alarmed until I realised he was referring merely to the Wolfenden Report! Later I reflected on his attitude, which had been formed I believe, by his church. I remembered the wise advice in Psalm 37: "Fret not thyself because of evil-doers... Trust in the Lord, and do good."

It is a pity when churches produce fretful people. I have known even Unitarians to be fretful sometimes! Fretfulness is irreligious and unattractive. Jesus knew all about this mixture of good and evil but he never lost his vision of good ultimately triumphant. "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." In that faith he lived, prayed, worked and died. And so can we.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

The Firework Display

The Day arrived! The Day of Reckoning, the Mayor called it. Guy Fawkes, he considered, hadn't done too badly, for his (Guy's) state of mind could not be compared with his (the Mayor's). Guy Fawkes *couldn't* have had the Mayor's worry, because the Day had dawned.

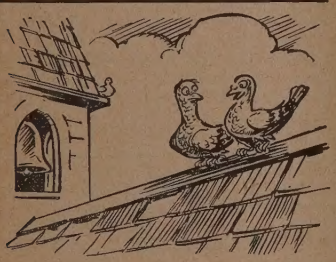
The big field was ready and the committee members were pleased with their arrangements. A fireworks crew was to be responsible for the programme of special effects. A huge bonfire had been erected, properly treated for the lighting ceremony. The Mayor had reluctantly asked the Duchess to perform this ceremony, but the Duchess was a wiser woman and had graciously declined. She would be pleased to come, she had replied, and would take even more pleasure in making the customary speech, but—His Worship the Mayor could light the fire. The Mayor wasn't really surprised; he had expected it.

A large crowd attended, dutifully paid their shillings (half-price for children) and were addressed by the Duchess. She chatted happily for some minutes and then asked His Worship the Mayor to light the fire. His Worship suddenly felt the loneliest person on the field, because he was sure something would go wrong. He said nervously that he was glad of the honour, took the lighted taper from his valet and threw it at the pile of wood and paper.

With a great roar the flames leapt to the top and round the sides of the bonfire, and the Mayor jumped back smartly and mopped his brow. The fire was burning merrily and the affair was officially on its way. The display was splendid; patterns

of brilliantly coloured lights turned the field into fairy palaces, giants' caves and under-water caverns.

The finale came with a tableau in which was depicted the storming of a mediaeval castle. The Mayor was sorry to see the end of it all, for he had enjoyed himself very much—and nothing had happened! Of course, some one at one point *had* tied a fire-cracker to his robe and caused him some anxious moments, but nothing really serious! He heaved a huge sigh of relief. He was content!



Now that postage rates have gone up, parson's using us for pigeon post.

NEWS AND VIEWS

IRELAND

At BELFAST, a new hall, in addition to the existing Rosemary Hall, was opened on June 30th, at ALL SOULS' CHURCH, by the Rev. Dr. Preston Bradley, of the People's Church, Chicago, and a regular visitor to All Souls' on his visits to Europe. The church needs the new hall to meet its growing needs, as All Souls' has the largest attending congregation of any church on the General Assembly roll.

At CRUMLIN on September 1st a new electric lighting installation was switched on, the service conducted by the moderator, Rt. Rev. C. M. Kelly, B.A., and the ceremony performed by Mrs. John McCleery, of Dunmurry. Special music was sung by Mrs. Carrington and the Lin-Dor-Ay trio. Visitors were entertained to tea in the schoolroom afterwards.

RADEMON Church has also installed electric light, the ceremony being performed by Mrs. J. L. O. Andrews, with the dedication conducted by the Moderator. Music was provided by the Fortview Male Voice Quintet. The offertory towards the cost of the lighting was £107. The church renovations, begun four years ago, are now successfully completed with the new lighting, which replaces picturesque but less efficient oil lamps.

TEMPLEPATRICK Church has received a pulpit Bible from Mr. Hugh Reid in memory of his wife. It was dedicated at the annual Children's Day service.

DROMORE congregation has overhauled its two-manual organ which was played at its opening in 1904 by the late William Harty, father of Sir Hamilton Harty. The re-opening service was played by Mr. H. McTaggart, organist of Lisburn Cathedral.

KILLINCHY raised £15 for the India Fund at a Social run by the Ladies' Committee.

GREAT BRITAIN

DONCASTER. A Harvest Coffee Evening and auction sale of harvest produce was held on September 30th after successful harvest services conducted by the Rev. J. B. Tonkin, of Halifax and Huddersfield. October 6th was announced as an All-Present Service to mark the 12th anniversary of the Rev. G. W. Parkinson as minister. Guest vocalists sang at the service, which was followed by a Social Hour at which Mr. R. Mason showed slides to illustrate a journey through Canada and Britain. A special congregational meeting was called for the following Saturday to review the life of the congregation, and make suggestions for enriching the Sunday services and more effectively advertising the free faith. On another October Saturday a visit

was organised to the Hucklow Players, followed by tea at the holiday homes.

DUKINFIELD held its 250th anniversary Bazaar on October 18th and 19th, to be followed on Ocober 25th by the Anniversary Services, with the Rev. Lawrence Redfern, of Bournemouth, as preacher. ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE and STALYBRIDGE congregations arranged to attend the evening service at Dukinfield instead of holding their own services.

LONDON DISTRICT PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY. The quarterly meeting and service were held at DITCHLING, Sussex, on October 12th, beginning with a service conducted by the Rev. R. E. Goddard, of Hackney. After tea in the village hall, Mr. A. K. Ross, B.C.L., M.A., spoke on "Mental Health and Public Opinion.

MANCHESTER. The District Association has organised an Advance Campaign at MIDDLETON to run through the autumn, with special services conducted by visiting ministers, and a canvass of houses, in which members of other churches will take part. An attractive leaflet has been printed giving the outline of the story of Unitarianism in Middleton, and a front-page reproduction of the architect's perspective drawing of the chapel, which was begun in 1892. BLACKLEY congregatioin, which shares the joint ministry of the Rev. D. C. Doel, is giving assistance in the campaign. Weekly newspaper advertising of Unitarian beliefs is part of the plan. PENDLETON congregation held a Harvest Supper and Auction after their Harvest Festival. Three members have given addresses during the summer at the College Youth Services. A new series of these Tuesday evening services and discussions at 8 p.m. in the Chapel of the Unitarian College, has now begun, attracting attendances from young Unitarians and the youth of other churches or none. Several local Y.P.L. branches have organised parties to attend "C.Y.S." from time to time. All who want to know more about these stimulating evenings should read the August issue of "The Young Unitarian," price 2d., from Ann Boon, 38, Chetwynd Street, Liverpool, 17.

LIVERPOOL F.O.Y. and Merseyside U.Y.P.L. have started a series of week-night Youth Services.

NORTH CHESHIRE SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION met at Oldham on October 19th, when the Rev. M. Bonner, of Gorton, and the Rev. T. E. Nuttall, of Oldham, introduced a discussion on "Finding a Symbol for our Free Faith."

STAND. The 69th annual Exhibition, held on September 14th, again produced a wonderful display of exhibits in all branches of arts and crafts, though the gardening section was much reduced this year by the poor weather. One young competitor gained an award in each of the sections for which she entered. A nine-year-old (not 10 as stated) had a successful original hymn entry printed in the October issue of "The Unitarian," and an adult entry, a "Nativity Cradle Song" will be printed in the December issue.

U.Y.P.L. The Annual September week-end, formerly always held at Great Hucklow, was this year transferred to Vale Head Camp, Kinver, in the Midlands region, with great success. Campers came from many regions and enjoyed a full and happy week-end, holding their Sunday service in the open-air. (The nearest Unitarian chapels are six miles away). The projected Old People's Home visiting rally, centred on Chorlton for September 28th, had to be cancelled owing to the severity of the influenza epidemic. Yorkshire arranged a Study week-end at Bradford in October.

TEN LITTLE CHURCHMEN

Ten little churchmen went to church when fine;
When it started raining, then there were nine.

Nine little churchmen stayed up very late,
One overslept himself, then there were eight.
Eight little churchmen on the road to heaven,
One joined a cycling club, then there were seven.
Seven little churchmen heard of Sunday flicks,
One thought he'd like to go, then there were six.
Six little churchmen kept the place alive;
One bought television, then there were five.
Five little churchmen seemed loyal to the core;
The minister upset one, then there were four.
Four little churchmen asked out to tea;
One couldn't leave in time, then there were three.
Three little churchmen sang the service through,
Got a tune they didn't know, then there were two.
Two little churchmen argued who should run
Next autumn's bring-an-buy, then there was one.

One faithful churchman, knowing what do do,
Got a friend to come to Church, then there were two.
Two steady churchmen each brought one more,
So their number doubled, and that made four.
Four ardent churchmen simply couldn't wait
Till they found four others, then there were eight.
Eight eager churchmen, searching round for souls,
Praying, working, witnessing, drew them in by shoals;
Shoals at every service. cramming every pew—
God give us eager churchmen (in *our* church) too!

From a Church magazine

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Bookings to the Secretary.

THE LINDSEY PRESS
A Free Religious Faith
The report of a Unitarian Commission
"In this book the issues are so fairly set out and so frankly faced that it may be instructive even to those who disagree fundamentally with its line of argument . . ."
"Times Literary Supplement."
3/6 by post 3/10

The Unitarian Faith in Unitarian Hymns
This small collection of sixty hymns is "A small treasury of hymns truly expressive of the Unitarian faith in its various aspects." Biographical notes appear in alphabetical order at end of the book.
1/- by post 1/3

The Story and Significance of the Unitarian Movement
by W. G. Tarrant, B.A.
Reprinted with additional notes
1/6 by post 1/9

The Lindsey Press, 15, Gordon Square, London, W.C.1.

I.R.F. CONFERENCE

Stoos, Lucerne, August 3rd to 10th

Youth delegates from many countries enjoyed a wonderful week in Switzerland for this year's I.R.F. conference. They numbered 140 and the average age was 23. The British delegation of 40 was the largest yet recorded. The subject was Education For To-day, a subject of greater interest to the teacher delegates than to some of those not "in the game," but one of great importance nevertheless. Lectures, discussions and social occasions, and visits to places of interest are all remembered with great satisfaction, and especially the marvellous hospitality by the Swiss, who entertained many of the delegates in their homes for a second week after the conference closed.

Stoos itself has a remarkably exhilarating situation, 4,000 feet above sea level, with gloriously distant views. The village is linked to the major road by a funicular railway. Many friendships have been made at this conference, and many who sampled I.R.F. for the first time, are saving up for future conferences. Next year's, however, is in the U.S.A., and most people need to save up for more than a year to attend that!

A delegate to represent British Unitarian Youth has, however, been appointed.

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